

2025-26 Mass Scorecard for State Sen. John Velis



Democrat representing Hampden and Hampshire [Agawam, Chicopee, Holyoke, Westfield, West Springfield, Montgomery, Russell, Easthampton, Southampton]

Office: 24 Beacon St Room 513

Phone: (617) 722-1415

E-mail: john.velis@masenate.gov

<http://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/JCV0>



OnTheIssues.org/
MassScorecard

Vote selection and interpretation by representatives of Mass Scorecard without approval or participation from the Massachusetts Democratic Party.

The Platform Committee weakened the party platform because they believe that attracts voters. Progressive Democrats disagree: we attract voters by having strong & clear progressive values, and asking legislators to vote based on those values.

The Massachusetts Democratic Party Charter says, “*The most recent Democratic platform...is the official position of the Democratic Party.... every official elected shall adhere to the...platform. Failure to do so...may be publicized by...action of any Party convention.*”

The platform MATTERS because we can hold our legislators accountable to it! Here’s how one legislator compares to the Party Platform....

Fundamental Issue in MassDems' Party Platform: “Massachusetts Democrats will fight for...” (Click for full text of platform section)	Summary of related issue put to vote (Click for House Journal references)	This Senator's vote on this issue	Party platform on this issue
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: page 12 clause 10 : "Safe, reliable, accessible, equitable transportation solutions... and a sustainable public transit system"	April 16, 2025: Allocate \$828 million from the 'Millionaire's Tax' to transportation projects and MBTA? (H.4227 Senate rollcall 52 passed 40-0-0 plus H.4005 House rollcall 29 passed 140-14-6)	VELIS: YES	Platform: YES
RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUAL RIGHTS: page 14 clause 12 : "The protection and promotion of equal rights for all LGBTQ+ people... and advocating for greater protections in the workplace, education, housing, healthcare, and criminal justice"	Nov 3, 2005: Should transgender care be protected from disclosure? (S.2543 Senate rollcall 68 passed 37-3-0, plus S.2538 House rollcall 72 passed 132-24-4)	VELIS: YES	Platform: YES
ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY: page 15 clause 14 : "All Committee votes in the Legislature to be made public by providing a list of those legislators voting yes and those legislators voting no"	Feb. 12, 2025: Record all Rollcall votes; 2 days to review bills & other previews? (S.15 Senate Amendment #13 and #15 failed 6-32-2; Senate Amendment #22 failed 9-29-21; H.2026 House rollcall 13/14/20/22, all failed 23-128-7)	VELIS: NO	Platform: YES
HEALTHCARE AND HUMAN SERVICES: page 16 clause 2 : "accessible healthcare for all through a single-payer government-sponsored program, like Medicare"	Feb. 27, 2025: Single-payer health care financing system (S.860 Senate: 24 co-sponsors; H.1405 House: 62 co-sponsors).	VELIS: NO SPONSOR	Platform: YES
HEALTHCARE: page 16 clause 9 : "Using the revenue generated by legalized marijuana to help fund proven opioid prevention and recovery services"	June 4, 2025: Should the cannabis industry expand responsibly? (H.4206 Senate rollcall 116 passed 30-7-3 plus H.4187 House rollcall 55 passed 153-0-6)	VELIS: SPONSOR but ABSENT for vote	Platform: YES
CRIMINAL LEGAL REFORM: Platform page 21 clause 2 : "Ban on ghost guns and 3D-printed guns"	July 18, 2024: Ban 3D-printed guns and semiautomatic weapons (H.4885 Senate rollcall 208 passed 35-5-0; H.4885 House rollcall 135 passed 124-33-3; 2025 repeal bill S.1509/H.2713 appears on Nov. 2026 ballot)	VELIS: YES	Platform: YES
Party Charter Article 2, section VII, clause (b) : “Members of Democratic town and ward committees may be removed for...publicly endorsing or supporting any candidate whose announced intention is to oppose the nominee of the Democratic Party”	2024-2026 : Donated to state/federal Democrats.	VELIS: NO TO GOP	Platform: NO TO GOP
Number of votes in 2025-26 in accord with Democratic Party Platform:		4 ½ out of 7 votes.	
Summary letter grade: A=90% or better; B=80%; C=70%; D=60%; F=below 60%		D	

CONTACT: Democratic State Committeeman Jesse Gordon (617) 320-6989 jesse@jessegordon.com, P.O. Box 530, Randolph MA 02368